

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
OMB-01 MCT-01 /071 W
-----110652Z 004221 /21

R 101319Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 515
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 0813

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR JO UN
SUBJECT: WALDHEIM'S VISIT TO AMMAN

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM ARRIVED
IN AMMAN 8 FEBRUARY SOMEWHAT UPSTAGED BY PROGRAM OF
SUBSEQUENT SENIOR VISITORS WITHIN A FEW WEEKS FROM
GERMANY, THE U.S., AND FRANCE. WALDHEIM LEFT JORDAN
10 FEBRUARY IN THE SHADOW OF THE TRAGIC FATAL AIR-
CRASH OF QUEEN ALYA.

2. IN BETWEEN, HE MET WITH PRIME MINISTER BADRAN AND
HAD TWO-HOUR AUDIENCE WITH KING HUSSEIN ON 9 FEBRUARY.
IN BOTH CASES, LOCAL MEDIA EMPHASIZED MESSAGE GIVEN
TO WALDHEIM WAS THAT PLO ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA IS
"BASIC" TO SETTLEMENT, JORDAN WOULD ATTEND GENEVA
AS CONFRONTATION STATE BUT NOT AS REPRESENTATIVE
OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AND PEACE SETTLEMENT REQUIRED
FULL WITHDRAWAL TO 1967 BORDERS, RESTORATION OF
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LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AS
STIPULATED BY UN RESOLUTIONS, AND ACCEPTABLE
GUARANTEES FOR ALL SIDES.

3. ANSWERING QUESTION AT AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL, WALDHEIM
QUOTED AS SAYING ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON'S
STATEMENT ABOUT RELATIVE MERITS OF UN AND USG GOOD

OFFICES "HAS NOT CHANGED THE ATTITUDE OF ISRAEL TOWARD THE UNITED NATIONS. MY VISIT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES AND CLARIFY POSITIONS. I WAS ASSURED BEFORE MY DEPARTURE THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE INTERESTED IN MY VISIT."

4. IN SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW WITH JORDAN TIMES, WALDHEIM REPLIED TO QUESTION ABOUT HIS ENTERING ISRAEL VIA JERUSALEM AIRPORT RATHER THAN TEL AVIV WITH REVELATION THAT JORDANIAN AUTHORITIES WERE CONSULTED AND HAD NO OBJECTION. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT KALENDIA AIRPORT NORMALLY IS USED BY AIRCRAFT OF UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCES, AND THAT UN HAS LONG-STANDING PRESENCE IN JERUSALEM. IN ANY EVENT, HE ADDED, LANDING IN JERUSALEM ALLOWS HIM TO MAXIMIZE HIS TIME AND HAS NO POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS WHATSOEVER. ELSEWHERE IN INTERVIEW, WALDHEIM SAID HE HAS FOUND ON PRESENT TRIP THAT ARABS HAVE STRONG WISH FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, AND THEY WANT TO ADDRESS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, NOT GET BOGGED DOWN IN PROCEDURAL ONES.

5. DURING AMMAN VISIT, WALDHEIM ALSO MET WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN ON FIVE YEAR PLAN, AND RECEIVED NOTE FROM DELEGATION OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES LIVING IN CAMPS IN JORDAN WHO WANTED SECRETARY-GENERAL TO KNOW OF THEIR PRESENT CONDITIONS AND REQUESTS FOR UN ASSISTANCE.

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6. EDITORIALS OVER PAST FEW DAYS ASKED WALDHEIM TO LOOK AT GROWTH OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON WEST BANK, AND CONTRAST GOI BELLIGERENT ATTITUDES WITH ARABS' WISH FOR PEACE. A MAJOR EDITORIAL THEME WAS THAT UN ALREADY HAS ENOUGH FACTS AND RESOLUTIONS, AND WHAT IS NEEDED NOW IS FOR IT TO ACT ON THEM. END UNCLASSIFIED.

7. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. EVEN BEFORE WALDHEIM'S VISIT BECAME OVERSHADOWED BY QUEEN ALYA'S FATAL AIRCRASH, THERE WAS A PUBLIC AURA SURROUNDING THE WALDHEIM VISIT THAT IT WAS MAINLY A PRELIMINARY, PRECEDING COMING MORE SIGNIFICANT VISIT OF SECRETARY. WHILE JORDANIANS LIKE OTHER ARABS BELIEVE THAT THE UN IS SOMETIMES A USEFUL ASSET IN THEIR MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY, THEY KNOW AS FULLY AS DOES ALLON THAT IF THEY WANT TO MOVE BEYOND POLEMICS INTO SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS, THE MORE TRADITIONAL DIPLOMACY OF STATES IS REQUIRED. END CONFIDENTIAL

PICKERING

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECRETARY GENERAL, VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977AMMAN00813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770049-0361
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770256/aaaabxcr.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6a6174c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3358795
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WALDHEIM'S VISIT TO AMMAN
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, JO, UN, PLO, (WALDHEIM, KURT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6a6174c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009